IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #) or, (previously re-presented).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1.	(CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transaction assisting apparatus for assisting transactions in goods in an electronic market, comprising:

chain order input means permitting input of orders to sell ~~or purchase~~ a first type of fungible goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale ~~or purchase~~ of the first type of fungible goods, purchase ~~or sale~~ of a second type of fungible goods from a third party, the second type of fungible goods being different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods;

order detecting means for automatically detecting execution of an order for ~~purchase or~~ sale of the first type of fungible goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed; and

chain order processing means for, responsive to the detection of execution of a ~~buy or~~ sell order for the first type of fungible goods by said order detecting means, automatically executing the chain order for the ~~first~~ second type of fungible goods.

2.	(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

chain order storing means for storing the chain order input from said chain order input means; and

deleting means for deleting, from said chain order storing means, the chain order with respect to which the automatic execution has been completed by said chain order processing means.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means for selectively displaying those of the chain orders which include a sell or buy order for the second type of fungible goods and which satisfy a condition for sale or purchase of the second type of fungible goods.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said display means inhibits display of information about a buy or sell order for the second type of fungible goods included in the chain order when the chain order is placed, and displays the information after the chain order is executed.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising price changing means for, responsive to a change in price of the first type of goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding second type of goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said chain order processing means performs chain order processing in series if an order placed with respect to the second type of fungible goods to be transacted is a chain order.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising tax amount calculating means for calculating an amount of tax to be paid as a result of the execution of the chain order; and

notifying means for notifying parties concerned in the execution of the chain order of the amount of tax calculated by said tax amount calculating means.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The transaction assisting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising transfer means for automatically transferring a price and a tax payable as a result of the execution from one to another of accounts of parties concerned in the execution.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program to be executed by a computer for causing the computer to perform a transaction assisting process for assisting transactions in goods, the process comprising:

permitting input of orders to sell ~~or purchase~~ a first type of fungible goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale ~~or purchase~~ of the first type of fungible goods, purchase ~~or sale~~ of a second type of fungible goods different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods from a third party;

automatically detecting execution of an order for ~~purchase or~~ sale of the first type of fungible goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed; and

responsive to the detection of execution of a ~~buy or~~ sell order for the ~~first~~ second type of fungible goods by said order detecting means, automatically executing the chain order for the first type of fungible goods .

10.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for assisting transactions in goods, the method comprising:

permitting input of orders to sell ~~or purchase~~ a first type of fungible goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale ~~or purchase~~ of the first type of fungible goods, purchase ~~or sale~~ of a second type of fungible goods different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods from a third party;

automatically detecting execution of an order for ~~purchase or~~ sale of the first type of fungible goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed; and

responsive to the detection of execution of a ~~buy or~~ sell order for the first type of fungible goods by said order detecting means, automatically executing the chain order for the ~~first~~ second type of fungible goods.

11.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:

storing the inputted chain order; and

deleting the stored chain order with respect to which the automatic execution has been completed.

12.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 10, further comprising displaying those of the chain orders which include a sell or buy order for the second type of fungible goods and which satisfy a condition for sale or purchase of the second type of fungible goods.

13.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 12, further comprising inhibiting display of information about a buy or sell order for the second type of fungible goods included in the chain order when the chain order is placed, and displaying the information after the chain order is executed.

14.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 12, further comprising, responsive to a change in price of the first type of goods, automatically changing a price of the corresponding second type of goods of the chain order in an interlocked manner.

15.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 10, wherein said chain order processing means performs chain order processing in series if an order placed with respect to the second type of fungible goods to be transacted is a chain order.

16.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 10, further comprising calculating an amount of tax to be paid as a result of the execution of the chain order; and

notifying parties concerned in the execution of the chain order of the amount of tax calculated.

17.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method according to claim 10, further comprising automatically transferring a price and a tax payable as a result of the execution from one to another of accounts of parties concerned in the execution.

18.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for assisting transactions in goods in an electronic market, comprising:

a chain order input unit permitting input of orders to sell ~~or purchase~~ a first type of fungible goods to a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for sale ~~or purchase~~ of the first type of fungible goods, purchase ~~or sale~~ of a second type of fungible goods from a third party, the second type of fungible goods being different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods;

an order detecting unit automatically detecting execution of an order for ~~purchase or~~ sale of the first type of fungible goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed; and

a chain order processor, responsive to the detection of execution of a ~~buy or~~ sell order for the ~~first~~ second type of fungible goods by said order detecting unit, automatically executing the chain order for the first type of fungible goods .

19.   CANCELLED.

20.   CANCELLED.

21.   (NEW) A transaction assisting apparatus for assisting transactions in goods in an electronic market, comprising:

chain order input means permitting input of orders to purchase a first type of fungible goods from a second party in the electronic market, and permitting the input of a chain order, the chain order being an order requesting, on condition of execution of an order for purchase of the first type of fungible goods, sale of a second type of fungible goods to a third party, the second type of fungible goods being different from and not fungible with respect to the first type of fungible goods;

order detecting means for automatically detecting execution of an order for purchase of the first type of fungible goods with respect to which the chain order has been placed; and

chain order processing means for, responsive to the detection of execution of a buy order for the first type of fungible goods by said order detecting means, automatically executing the chain order for the second type of fungible goods.